



Carrickfergus Model Primary School Principal's Newsletter: December 2018



Dear Parents / Carers

It is the most wonderful time of the year!

School is a treat for all your senses at the moment. Open the front door and you might just catch a glimpse of a passing wise man, hear the sound of carolling choir members or smell the Christmas dinner being served to pupils and staff alike.

During the month of November, school life was filled with an array of teaching and learning possibilities, not just in literacy or numeracy, but in kindness and helping others as well. Our 'Spotacular' Children in Need Bun and Book Sale raised over £800 for children less fortunate than our own, locally and further afield. We are very grateful for the team effort from parents, pupils and staff in making this worthwhile venture such a success. Thank you!

Each week, pupils have continued to enjoy Golden Time, Fabulous Friday learning activities and a host of afterschool activities. P2 have hosted a number of special visitors this month including Dr Karl and a visit from the PSNI. Young Enterprise have launched their ventures with us recently and Shared Education partnerships are now well under way. After schools clubs have concluded the term on a high note with a Parent Showcase time for the Hip Hop Dance Club and a number of recent successes for the school football team. Well done boys!

I am delighted to inform you that our school family has also grown in November to include the safe arrival of Luke Eric Falconer. Both mother and baby are doing very well. Mrs Fitzsimmons is also continuing to make a steady recovery. Our best wishes go to these ladies over the festive period.

Our thanks goes to the PTA for their dedication and diligent preparations for our PTA Christmas Fair next week. Such an array of treats and activities is planned – you won't want to miss it! And to our teaching and non-teaching staff for their enthusiasm and hard work in getting all our young actors and musicians ready for this year's Christmas performances.

Finally, as we reflect upon the year which is almost past and think to a new one nearly upon us, we are mindful of members of our school family who have found recent months very difficult and are grateful for the health and happiness most of us can shortly enjoy over the Christmas period.

Best wishes to you and your family at this Christmas time,

J. Miller

PRIMARY 1 ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

If you have a child due to start school next year, please call with Miss Smythe at the office and complete a pink pre-registration form, even if you have a child at school already. This will enable us to help you with the new admissions process outlined below.

This year, application forms will be in a digital format for both pre-school and primary admissions. A new portal for parents to apply online has been created to include the listing of preferences for schools. This replaces the current paper-based application form. Parents will still have to provide their child's birth certificate and any other verifying documents. The GO LIVE date for the new digital admission is **Wednesday 2nd January at 10.00am**, closing at **midnight on Thursday 31st January 2019**. Please refer to the Education Authority's website: <http://www.eani.org.uk>. This is completely new for every school this year but we will assist you whatever way we can throughout the process.



CHRISTMAS @ THE MODEL

Christmas Card Fundraiser: Thank you to parents who have purchased items designed by your child. They have arrived in school and will be going home with pupils this week. The money raised will really enhance our school fund and is very much appreciated.

Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th December: P1 - P4 Christmas Celebration. Tickets have been sent home for this so please check schoolbags carefully. P1 & P2 will be performing @ 09.30. Doors open @ 09.15. **If attending, please stay for the duration of both short plays.** Our pupils have been working very hard and need a full audience to showcase their talent. The P3 & P4 production of "Lights, Camel, Action" will begin @ 10.30 approx. Doors open @ 10.20. I can assure you that you are in for a masterclass in acting and a dance sensation!

KS2 Carol Service – Wednesday 19th December: This year, we will be hosting our Carol Service in the school Assembly Hall again. In order to accommodate everyone, this will be held @ 09.30am and @ 7.00pm. **Please ensure your child attends both services**, pupils will be relying on each other to play their part. We hope you will join us in singing carols, listening to festive readings and enjoy a 'guest' performance or two as well.

Retiring collections will be made at all Christmas Celebrations for Cruse Bereavement, our school charity this year and one very close to our hearts.



PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our PTA Christmas Fair will be held on **Friday 14th December @ 6.00pm**. There will be many festive treats and activities in store for adults and children to enjoy, including:



- *An inflatable snowglobe*
- *Christmas craft stalls (local traders)*
- *Games and crafts*
- *Toys and tuck shop*
- *Winter hotdog barbeque*
- *Tombolas for adults and children*
- *Silent auction*
- *Festive storytelling with Mrs Claus*
- *Santa's grotto*



Adult entry fee £2.50 per person (includes tea/coffee & traybake and juice for your child)



IMPORTANT INFORMATION



School will finish at **2.00pm** on **FRIDAY 14TH December** to facilitate PTA Christmas Fair preparations

Breakfast Club and Healthy Break will run as usual.
There will be **NO** buses

The last day of term will finish at **12.00 noon** on **FRIDAY 21ST December**

Breakfast Club and Healthy Break will run as usual.
There will be **NO** buses

Thursday 20TH & FRIDAY 21ST December are both **NON-UNIFORM days.**



Wear something festive as we enjoy our class Christmas parties on Thursday 20th!

The Spring term will begin on **THURSDAY 3RD January 2019**



Breakfast Club, Healthy Break, School Meals and buses will run as usual.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO STAFF

At this time each year, teaching and non-teaching staff are overwhelmed by the generosity of parents and pupils through the gifts they send into school. We very much appreciate the kindness and consideration that has been taken in purchasing presents. This year in school, we have been focusing some of our teaching and learning on thinking of others through our Ripple Kindness curriculum. As a staff, we feel passionately that we should model this example too. Although there is no expectation of a gift at all, we would ask you to consider giving to charity instead. If you wish to do so, we have setup a Just Giving page for Cruse Bereavement, our school charity this year.

<http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/pleasesponsor/CarrickModelPS>

or by text to:



Cruse Bereavement is a charity close to our hearts. Sadly, over the last few years and even in recent months, pupils and staff from our school have lost loved ones. Most tragically, this has included parents. Even this week, we were saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Miller's father. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family circle at this time. When choosing our school charity for this year, there was no cause more worthwhile in our situation than Cruse Bereavement.